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Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 07057 052027Z

20
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-19

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 DODE-00 SS-20 NSC-07 NEA-14 OIC-04 DRC-01 /136 W
---------- 034697
R 051811Z JUN 74
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1001
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 07057

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, NATO, GR, UK, US
SUBJECT: GREEK ISSUE AT NATO MINISTERIAL

REF: STATE 117646

1. WE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO TALK TO WIGGIN JUNE 5
ABOUT THE GREEK QUESTION AT THE NATO MINISTERIAL MEETING.
WE DREW ON REFTEL TO UNDERSCORE US REACTION TO APPROACH
SYKES MADE TO HARTMAN. WIGGIN SAID THAT SKYES' APPROACH
WAS A RESULT OF A TELEGRAM HE HAD SENT TO SYKES A SHORT
TIME AGO ASKING THE LATTER TO RAISE THE MATTER WITH US
OFFICIALS. WIGGIN EMPHASIZED THAT THE APPROACH WAS
STRICTLY BASED ON AN OFFICIAL LEVEL INITIATIVE AT THE
FCO AND WAS NOT INTENDED TO REFLECT EXPLICIT MINISTERIAL
GUIDANCE. THE VIEWS SYKES CONVEYED TO HARTMAN REFLECTED
THE BEST ESTIMATE OF FCO OFFICIALS OF POSSIBLE MINISTER-
IAL VIEWS ABOUT THE GREEK ISSUE BUT WAS NOT MORE THAN
THAT. WIGGIN SAID HE COULD ASSURE US THAT CALLAGHAN
WOULD NOT PLAN TO PROPOSE DRACONIAN MEASURES AGAINST
GREECE BUT ADDED IT WAS QUITE PROBABLE THAT CALLAGHAN
WOULD FEEL CONSTRAINED TO SAY SOMETHING. WIGGIN SAID
FURTHER THAT THERE ARE CONSIDERABLE PRESSURES ON HMG
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PAGE 02 LONDON 07057 052027Z

TO TAKE A STRONG STAND AGAINST GREECE IN NATO BUT HE DID

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

NOT CITE GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS WITH A GREAT DEAL OF
PRESTIGE IN THE UK, MENTIONING AS SYKES HAD DONE ONLY
HUGH GREENE AND OTHERS.

2. WIGGIN SAID HE APPRECIATED HEARING THE STATE DEPT
REPORT OF THE SYKES-HARTMAN CONVERSATION, AND SAID HE
WOULD TAKE CAREFUL NOTE OF OUR REPORT OF THE US VIEWS.
HE WAS APPARENTLY ABOUT TO PREPARE A RECOMMENDATION TO
THE FOREIGN SECRETARY ON THE HANDLING OF THE GREEK ISSUE
AT THE NATO MINISTERIAL MEETING. IN THIS CONNECTION
HE SAID THAT HIS OWN RECOMMENDATION TO THE FOREIGN
SECRETARY WOULD BE TO HANDLE THE MATTER IN A VERY GENERAL
WAY, TAKING NOTE OF THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY HARTMAN. IN
WIGGIN'S VIEW IT WOULD BE BEST FOR THE FOREIGN SECRETARY
TO WAIT UNTIL HE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO TALK TO THE
SECRETARY AT OTTAWA BEFORE FORMULATING ANY CRITICISMS
OF THE CURRENT GREEK REGIME.

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